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Activities not classified by field: programme questions
(United Nations Statistics Division)

Draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2006-2007

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft programme of work in the field of statistics for the biennium 2006-2007, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Statistical Commission in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. In section I, paragraph 7, of its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, the General Assembly stressed the role of the relevant intergovernmental bodies in the consideration of the narrative of the proposed programme budget, as well as the necessity for a timely presentation of their recommendations on the budget.

2. The draft programme of work has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 5 (Statistics) of programme 9 (Economic and social affairs). It will be implemented by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

3. The Commission is invited to comment and make recommendations, as appropriate, on the draft programme of work. These comments and recommendations will be taken into account, as appropriate, by the Secretary-General in finalizing his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, which will be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at its spring session in 2005 and the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

* E/CN.3/2005/1.

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Annex

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2006-2007 for the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Objectives

To enhance the production by national statistical authorities of high-quality, timely, national, official statistics and indicators, using standardized statistical methods, classifications and definitions that promote international comparability, and foster their dissemination in support of national and international policy-making and monitoring in general, with particular attention to internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicator(s) of achievement*
(a) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, and countries in transition to routinely collect, compile, store, analyse and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields with improved quality, usefulness and accessibility, including the indicators for follow-up to United Nations conferences and for monitoring progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992	(a) (i) The number of national statistical offices implementing what they learned from workshops and advisory missions (ii) An increase in national data available in the Statistics Division database for monitoring progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992 (iii) An increase in the number of developing countries especially the least developed countries, countries in transition, and countries providing more complete data to the publications of the Division
(b) A strengthened global statistical system, with increased participation by countries and increased collaboration among international organizations, including progress in the harmonization and rationalization of development indicators	(b) (i) The number of participants from countries and international organizations attending the sessions of the Statistical Commission, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars (ii) The number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicator(s) of achievement*
(c) Enhanced capability of national statistical offices to effectively respond to important needs, including those relating to new and critical issues in statistics	(c) (i) The number of participants from national statistical offices who indicate that their knowledge of new and critical issues increased as a result of attending workshops and seminars (ii) The number of new and critical issues reviewed and analysed in reports of the Statistics Division discussed by representatives of national statistical offices in the Statistical Commission, workshops, expert group meetings and seminars
(d) Better and broader use by governments, international organizations, research institutes, the private sector and the general public of statistical data and technical material produced by the subprogramme	(d) (i) The number of visitors to relevant sections of the Statistics Division web site (ii) The number of requests satisfied for statistical data in paper and electronic form
(e) Increased understanding of the use of geographical information systems for modern surveying and mapping activities and the standardization of geographical names at the national and local levels	(e) The number of participants at regional cartographic conferences and conferences on geographic names who report that they learned new substantive skills at the conferences

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that national statistical offices will have the necessary resources and capacity.

Outputs

During the biennium 2006-2007, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

(i) General Assembly:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the Fifth Committee on the scale of assessments (20);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Background documents and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Fifth Committee (2);

(ii) Committee on Contributions:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the Committee on Contributions (90);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports and background papers and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Committee on Contribution (2);

(iii) Statistical Commission:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions of the Statistical Commission (14);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports to the Statistical Commission. The Statistical Commission in its 2005 session will decide on the exact topics (22);

(iv) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (16); twenty-third session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (12); twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (4); and the seventeenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Asia and the Pacific (10);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Report on the ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (1); report on the twenty-third session of the Group of Experts (1); report on the twenty-fourth session of the Group of Experts (1); and report on the seventeenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (1);

(v) Ad hoc expert groups. Expert group meetings on: population and housing censuses (1); international migration statistics (1); poverty measurement/social statistics (1); national accounts (1); trade statistics (1); international economic and social classifications (1); environment statistics (1); inter-agency and expert meeting on Millennium Development Goal indicators and development statistics (1);

(b) Other substantive outputs

(i) Recurrent publications:

- *Demographic Yearbook*, 2004 and 2005 editions, (print) (2)
- *Demographic Yearbook*, Special Topic, (2)
- *Vital Statistics Report*, (4)
- *Statistics on Women and Men*, Special Topic (2)
- Web site on demographic and social statistics, quarterly update (8)
- Web site on social indicators, quarterly update (8)
- *National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables*, 2004 and 2005 editions, (print) (2)
- *National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates*, 2004 and 2005 editions, (print) (2)
- *Newsletter on National Accounts* (4)

- Web site on national accounts, annual update (2)
- *Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook*, 2004 and 2005 editions, (2)
- Web site on industry statistics, annual update (2)
- *Energy Statistics Yearbook*, 2004 and 2005 editions, (print) (2)
- *Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles 2004*, (print) (1)
- Web site on energy statistics, annual update (2)
- *International Trade Statistics Yearbook*, vols. I and II, (print) (2)
- Web site on international trade statistics (2)
- Comtrade Databases on International trade statistics, (Internet annual update) (2)
- An online annex to *Yearbook of International Trade Statistics*, vols. I and II (2006 and 2007) (1)
- *Newsletter on International Trade Statistics* (8)
- *Newsletter on International Trade in Services* (4)
- Web site on international trade in services, annual update (2)
- Environmental country profiles, (Internet) (1)
- *Newsletter on Environment Statistics* (8)
- Web site on environment statistics, annual update (2)
- Web site on environmental accounting, annual update (2)
- Web site on good practices in official statistics, annual update (2)
- Web site on methodological work, annual update (2)
- Web site on City Groups, annual update (2)
- *Newsletter on Classifications* (4)
- Web site on classifications, annual update (2)
- *Statistical Yearbook*, 2006 and 2007 editions, (print and CD-ROM) (4)
- *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, 2006-2007, (print and Internet) (48)
- *World Statistics in Brief*, 2006 and 2007 editions, (print and Internet) (4)
- Millennium Development Goals, Data and Trends 2006 and 2007 (Internet) (2)
- Web site of the Millennium Indicators, annual update (2)
- United Nations Statistics Division Internet home page, quarterly update (8)
- Web site of the Statistics Division publications archive (2)

- *Statistics Newsletter*, (print and Internet) (8)
- Web site of the Common Database, quarterly update (8)
- *United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Information Bulletin* (2)
- Web site of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, annual update (2)
- Web site on Statistical Commission, annual update (2)

(ii) Non-recurrent publications:

- Principles and recommendations of population and housing censuses, revision 1 (update for 2010 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses) (1)
- *Housing Statistics Compendium* (1)
- *Handbook on National Accounts* (Special Topics) (2)
- CPC Version 2 (1)
- ISIC Revision 4 (1)
- Online database on International Trade in Services, annual update (2)
- Online database on national practices in compilation and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics (2)
- Online database on national practices in compilation and dissemination of international trade in services (2)
- Supplement to *Compilers manual on International Merchandise Trade Statistics* (1)
- Training material for the implementation of classifications: ISIC and CPC (1)
- Correlation tables among HS07, SITC Revision 3, BEC and SITC revision 4 (1)
- Standard International Trade Classification, revision 4 (1)
- Internet publication on "Progress towards the MDGs: 1990-2006" (2)
- Millennium Development Goal report and statistical annex for the Secretary-General's office (2)
- Publications in the field of geographical names

(iii) Technical material:

- Technical report on households, families and family arrangements (1)
- Proceedings of the Seminar on Water Statistics 2006 (1)

- Database technical development and maintenance, documentation and training in the areas of environmental statistics, energy statistics, commodity production statistics, index numbers of industrial production, national accounts, demographic statistics, international trade statistics and classifications (2)
- Standardized Statistical Data Metadata Exchange, collaboration with IMF, BIS et al. in inter-agency working group, 2005 (2)
- Responses to ad hoc requests from Member States and other users for information on internationally recommended concepts and methods, as well as national practices, in the aforementioned fields of statistics (2)
- Provision of information on computer tapes, diskettes, CD-ROMs, printouts and customized formats (2)
- Updated documentation on databases maintenance and revised training materials (2)

(c) Technical cooperation (Regular budget/extrabudgetary)[1]

(i) Advisory services (on government request) in statistics and statistical data processing to assist in the enhancement of national capabilities in the statistical offices of developing countries (2);

(ii) Training workshops aimed at capacity-building in statistics for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in various areas of statistics (2);

(iii) Fellowships, short-term training, study tours and on-the-job training for national statisticians from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to upgrade and strengthen their knowledge and skills in the area of statistics and to develop regional and international networks; as well as in the area of geographic information systems (2);

(iv) Provision of technical services to Member States and regional and interregional projects and training to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening national capabilities in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics (2);

(v) Provision of advice and technical assistance on scale of assessment methodology to other organizations (2).

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[1] Outputs (i) to (iv) will need to support specific programmes and priorities for developing statistical capacity-building, such as censuses, surveys of various kinds, environment statistics, analytical reporting as with Millennium Development Goal indicators of various kinds and collaboration with international funds, agencies and programmes in achieving coordinated national statistical programmes.